



Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Grants Program

Funding of scholarships for undergraduate/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) training awards enabling students to participate in higher education to increase the multicultural diversity of the food and agricultural sciences workforce.

The Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Grants Program (MSP), in partnership with eligible institutions of higher education, enable students to enter into and complete training to enter the workforce or graduate training in the food systems domain.

Firstly, the awardee enters into an agreement to recruit and train eligible students as Multicultural Scholars. Often, a question that arises is where are the students coming from who are trained as Multicultural Scholars. Another common question (or lament) is that there are NOT enough eligible U.S. citizens or U.S. Nationals who may be recruited to be Multicultural Scholars.

Secondly, the funding agency,

CSREES, has MSP Grant Program goals into which each award feeds. The Academic Competitive Council Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) objectives are embedded into MSP.

Thirdly, the student trainees are selected for their interest and commitment to excelling in learning and scholarship. They will develop knowledge for the food systems.

Finally, all segments of the partnership have a responsibility for stewardship of public funds. Are we all doing our part?

*We bring accountability out in the open.
We add clarification of roles and responsibilities.*

MSP Awardee Reporting

What Makes Program Reporting Effective?

- ♦ *Understanding that each award is a step leading to achieve the goal of training knowledge experts to meet workforce needs in the food systems domain;*
- ♦ *Providing information about ACCOMPLISHED activities, and resultant outputs or outcomes associated with funded project. NOTE: This is not a repeat of the objectives and planned approach from the funded application;*
- ♦ *Fulfilling the awardee obligation to effectively manage the funds provided for student training through comprehensive annual status reports;*
- ♦ *Increasing, as outlined in funded proposal, recruitment; mentorship and retention of multicultural diversity as highly skilled personnel entering the food systems domain;*
- ♦ *Providing fellows with learning opportunities to enhance their technical and global competence skills, including student experiential learning (SEL) opportunity for eligible USDA MSP Scholar through SEL support;*
- ♦ *Disseminating widely, activities for awarded undergraduate/DVM training project.*

In This Issue:

- ♦ Frequently Asked Questions
- ♦ 2007 Project Directors' Meeting
- ♦ MSP Reporting
- ♦ FY 2008 Application Due in Spring via grants.gov
- ♦ Relevant Links

Newsletter Goals

Goals of MSP Newsletter

- Facilitate information exchange
- Enhance the quality of student training in the food systems domain with thought-stimulating commentary
- Provide forum to offer information about experiential learning opportunities that enhance expertise development
- Share opportunities for collaboration
- Identify thematic areas that feed into policy and guidance development for food systems education
- Managing awards—fiduciary duties.

Program Office

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Program Assistant: wcolbert@csrees.usda.gov

**** Preferred Contact for Ready Response**

07 Award Snapshot:

Seven (7) awards were made from the FY 2007 Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program funding cycle. The awards will support training for:

- Seven (7) scholars in Veterinary Medicine
- Ten (10) scholars in Nutrition/Dietetics
- Six (6) scholars in Agribusiness

In FY 2007 : Twenty-four electronically submitted applications requesting over 3 million in funding were peer reviewed; Congress appropriated \$988,000.00 to fund awards for the MSP Grants.

- Four (4) scholars on Ag Engineering
- Five (5) scholars in Environmental Resources
- Five (5) scholars in General Food and Agricultural Sciences

The seven awards were made to seven institutions proposing student training with programs that were comprehensive and that have a high probability for successful outcomes.

Funded 7 of 24 applications received

Reporting Requirements for Multicultural

Reporting Guidance as provided in: (a) Notice of Award; and (b) Request for Applications

Scholars Grants Program

- i) the required reporting for MSP Grants to Program Office:
 - Appointment of Scholars (Entry Form)
 - End of Scholar eligibility for scholarship or termination of Scholar (Exit Form).
 - Annual Update—Progress of Each Scholar in Student Training funded project.
- ii) required reporting on progress of funded training grant project in CRIS:
 - Providing update on progress of the undergraduate/ Doctor of Medicine training grant for the funded training program objectives as a whole and not of the individual Scholar;
 - Training progress to meet needs of TESA of fellows as a group.
- iii) the financial reporting requirements must be met as outlines in the Notice of Award Document.
- iv) reporting for Student Experiential Learning funding must follow the requirements outlined for the SEL.

The Program Office, and Office of Extramural Programs review all submitted report. Reports that are not acceptable are returned for action by awardee. Where necessary, MSP funds that are not be-

Individuals are not eligible to apply for these grants to support their undergraduate/Doctor of Veterinary education.

Request for No-Cost Extension to a current award must be made in accordance with the guidance in the Award Terms and Conditions. The request is accomplished by a progress report and all other reporting requirements must be up-to-date. Reporting in a timely manner is the responsibility of the awardee.

The Request for No-Cost Extension should be initiated with the Office of Sponsored Programs (or equivalent) on the awardee's campus. The contact at CSREES is in the Awards Management Branch of the Office of Extramural Programs at CSREES and NOT the MSP Grant Office. To determine who the administrative contact is for your award—see the Notice of Award document.

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/awards/awardterms.html>

Guidance for MSP Grants

The MSP Request For Application, when read in its entirety, will ensure effective management. See Notice of Award Document for terms and conditions.

Question: Why is project management of student training award so important?

Answer: Award funds must be used to meet MSP goals. Also, eligibility; financial provisions; appointment; progress reporting, etc., are completed per awards Terms and Conditions and the RFA.

Question: What reporting for MSP should be made in CRIS?

Answer: Beginning in 2003, education awardees have been submitting reports through CRIS. Accomplishment reporting related to the goals and objectives of the awarded project is required.

Question: Interested in Program Overview, program purpose and goals?

Answer: See RFA.

The first joint MSP and Graduate Fellowship Grants Programs Project Directors and Beneficiaries Conference was held Oct. 16-17. There were 75 attendees made up of 45 project directors or program administrators; 20 students; 10 invited speakers from academia, private sector, other USDA agencies. [Coming soon to agency MSP grants funding opportunity page.]

The 2008 CSREES education grants project directors meeting is being held in conjunction with the annual North American College and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) conference. See 2008 Call for Abstracts: <http://www.nactateachers.org/cfabstracts.htm>

June 10-13, 2008 in Logan, UT.

Award Management by Project Directors

- ◆ **The Recruitment—Each** project director (PD) has the responsibility to recruit students with the highest probability for training success to meet the training objectives of the funded project.
 - This entails ACTIVE recruitment using a multi-dimensional recruitment strategy to meet the 12-month recruitment interval.
 - Failure to complete recruitment will lead to monies being returned to CSREES.
- The recruitment interval begins with the effective award **Start Date**.
- If recruitment is outsourced, the PD still is responsible for providing a completely-filled in Appointment form—CSREES Form 2010—for each Scholar.
- ◆ **Fiduciary Duties**
 - Federal funds for undergraduate or Doctor of Veterinary Medicine training through MSP grants must be acknowledged.
 - The PD has the responsibility to ensure that administrators, faculty and students acknowledge CSREES funding for undergraduate/DVM training funds under an award.
 - The CSREES Grant Award Number must be in the acknowledgement.
 - Expenditure of funds is determined by the awardee following the RFA and Notice of Award governing MSP grants.
 - Follow all guidance provided in the Notice of Award document for funded project.
- ◆ **No-Cost Extension—The Award Terms and Conditions** MUST be followed.

CSREES — Funding Intellectual Capital Development

Send News About Achievements of Multicultural Scholars to include:

Conference Presentations

Publications (including thesis and dissertation citations)

Awards/Recognitions

Professional Appointments

Past-Fellows

Would you like to be featured? Send us your information and photo with a publication release.

Contact Us: MSP@CSREES.USDA.GOV

Application Due for Next MSP Grant Program Cycle:
Summer, 2008

Look for Application Package on grants.gov by late-winter 2008

CFDA: 10.220/Program Code: KF

Pertinent Reference Information

Annual Multicultural Scholars Program Summaries
http://faeis.ahnrit.vt.edu/serd/serd_grants.shtml

Accomplishments of Funded NNF Projects
<http://cris.csrees.usda.gov>

CSREES Award Terms and Conditions
<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/awards/termsa205.pdf>

Appointment and Exit Forms/Annual Update (Student Progress)—CSREES Form 2010
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/pdfs/natl_needs.pdf

CRIS Reporting (Annual Progress of Funded Project)
<http://cwf.uvm.edu/cris> (For Help: 202-690-0009).

Other CSREES Education Funding Opportunities
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/offices/serd_funding.html